

Amendment Dated November 27, 2007
Serial No. 10/617,192

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IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A network device that is able to be remotely interfaced once deployed in the field, comprising a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling at least one processor to implement control logic configured to:

interface with a central office to receive data and control signals from the central office;

interface with a plurality of network access subscribers to provide network access to the network access subscribers; and

interface with a wireless control unit to receive control signals from a local control unit and enable the control unit to perform diagnostic operations on the network device or to control operation of the network device, while the network device is deployed in the field and without requiring the operator to come into direct contact with the network device to effect the control or diagnostic operations on the network device.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, further comprising an optical port ~~configured~~ to enable the network device to communicate with ~~the a~~-central office over an optical communications link.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 2, wherein the control logic ~~that interfaces is configured to interface~~ with ~~the a~~ central office ~~by enabling~~ enables the network device to communicate over a passive optical network.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein the control logic ~~is configured to~~ that interfaces with the plurality of network access subscribers implements digital subscriber line access multiplexer functionality to enable the network device to operate as a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) for the plurality of network access subscribers which interface with the network device; and

wherein the ~~interface with a~~ plurality of network access subscribers interface with the network device over subscriber loops connected to the network device by enabling the network device to operate as a digital subscriber line access multiplexer.

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Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, further comprising ~~at least one~~ of an internal wireless antenna ~~configured to receive and transmit wireless signals, and or a port~~ to enable the network device to be connected to an external wireless antenna that is to receive and transmit wireless signals, the internal wireless antenna or external wireless antenna working in connection with the control logic to enable the wireless control unit to receive the control signals from the local control unit.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 5, wherein said network device is configured to provide network access to wireless subscribers via ~~the at least one of said internal wireless antenna or and said external wireless antenna.~~

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, further comprising ~~at least one~~ of an infrared port to enable the network device to be interfaced via signals transmitted in an infrared portion of the spectrum, ~~and or an ultrasonic port to enable the network device to be interfaced via ultrasonic signals, the infrared port or ultrasonic port working in connection with the control logic to enable the wireless control unit to receive the control signals from the local control unit.~~

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, further comprising a packet queue ~~configured to store packets of data for transmission and a switch fabric configured to switch packets to the network access subscribers.~~

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein the control logic is further ~~enables configured to enable~~ the network device to communicate utilizing a first protocol with the central office, and to communicate utilizing a second protocol with the network access subscribers.

Claim 10. (Original) The network device of claim 9, wherein the first protocol is Ethernet, and wherein the second protocol is an xDSL (digital subscriber line) based technology.

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Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein the control logic is further ~~configured to provide~~ provides emergency services to the network access subscribers over the interface with the wireless control unit.

Claims 12-24. (Cancelled)